

[REDACTED] 14 Mar 85

STAT

X

X

WA [REDACTED]

STAT

FOI [REDACTED]

STAT

PLEASE EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO ALL OF YOUR STAFF INVOLVED IN  
COVERAGE OF MOSCOW AND IN HANDLING REPORTING ON THE RECENT EVENTS  
SURROUNDING THE CHERNENKO DEATH AND GORBACHEV SUCCESSION. ALTHOUGH  
THERE WAS NO LACK OF OFFICIAL REPORTING, I THINK BBC DID AN EXCELLENT  
JOB IN WATCHING THE MEDIA BEHAVIOR AND IN REPORTING THE ANNOUNCEMENTS  
PROMPTLY AND ACCURATELY. THE FACT THAT WE GOT NUMEROUS PHONE CALLS  
FROM OUR OFFICIAL CONSUMERS BEFORE THE DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATES  
TO ME THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO RELY HEAVILY ON OUR  
REPORTING FROM THE MEDIA (AND MEDIA BEHAVIOR REPORTS) IN CIRCUMSTANCES  
SUCH AS THESE, AND I THINK BBC DID ITSELF PROUD IN THIS COVERAGE. THE  
MONITORING SERVICE VERY MUCH CAME THROUGH FOR US AND ONCE AGAIN HAS  
DEMONSTRATED THE VALUE OF SOVIET MEDIA REPORTING. OUR HIGH LEVEL  
CONSUMERS WERE VERY APPRECIATIVE. [REDACTED]

STAT